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"Supervisor discussing zoning; Hear updates from auditor and emergency management" (2019). *Postville Project Documents*. 235.
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Obituaries

Mary Lange, 93

Mary Lange, of Postville, passed away Thursday, December 18, 2008, in West Union. She was 93.

A Mass of Celebration was held Friday, December 26, at the St. Bridget Catholic Church in Postville, with Father Richard Gaul presiding. Special Music was provided by Julie Heitland, organist, and St. Peter's Choir. Casket attendees were Michelle Arneson, Lindsey Arneson, Zach Arneson, Jim Lange, and Nancy Ross. Honorary casket attendees were Tim White, Susan Nanke, and Kevin Lange. Burial was in the Postville Cemetery. The Schutte Funeral and Cremation Service of Postville was in charge of arrangements.

Mary Kathryn Lange was born May 31, 1915, in Clermont, to Kathryn and Charles Killerlain. She was a 1933 graduate of Clermont High School. On July 17, 1937, she married Merle W. Lange in St. Peter's Catholic Church at Clermont.

She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends, playing cards, knitting, sewing, and needlepoint. She was well-known for her cooking. In the summer, she enjoyed gardening and working in her flower beds. Mary was an active member of St. Bridget's Parish and the Rosary Society.

Merle and Mary retired in 1978 and spent their winters in Harlingen, Texas, and Mesa, Arizona.

Mary is preceded in death by her parents.

Mary is survived by her husband, Merle Lange, long-time Postville resident now residing in the Good Samaritan Center in West Union; two daughters, Mary Chris White, Spirit Lake, and Carol Lange, Postville; a grandson, Tim White, Santa Fe, N.M.; a granddaughter, Michelle Arneson, Spirit Lake; three great-grandchildren, Lindsey and Zach Arneson, Spirit Lake, and Elizabeth White, Santa Fe.

William C. Schultz, 77

William C. Schultz, of Austin, Texas, passed away Monday, November 24, 2008, in Austin, Texas, after a battle against multiple health issues. He was 77.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, November 26, at the Chapel of the Hills, in Austin, Texas, with Pastor Terry Tope officiating.

Bill was born May 17, 1931, in Postville, the son of Alvin and Orma Schultz. He was a devoted husband, loving father, ardent radio controlled model airplane flyer and builder. He was a retired contractor, retired farmer, and a retired University of Texas employee.

Bill served a full, rich life. Over the years, he traveled thousands of miles throughout the United States by motorcycle, and owned over 20 bikes. He also loved traveling to other countries, visiting almost all the continents.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou; a grandson, Cole; Pat Schultz and their daughters, Susan and Kate; and many friends and family. He will also be missed by his tomcat, FauxB.



Luana Rambler

Pastor Christopher Staley

Greetings from Luana where the inevitable is about to happen, as the inevitable tends to do. It seems that 361 days have passed since we last changed the calendar, and since this year's model contains just 365, it will soon need to be retired in favor of the new one.

Even if the calendar for Aught Nine isn't as nice as this year's past, we can hope that the year itself is better. So many of the memorable moments from the past 12 months center around disaster, destruction, tragedy, and death. But I suppose that's the way most years are. I wonder why it is that we tend to focus on the 'bad' that has

happened to us when we look back. It would be nice if there were a way to have some sort or retrospective that highlighted the 'good' things that have occurred. At least that would serve to balance out what usually happens.

So taking a bit of my own advice, we can look back over this past week and rejoice that it wasn't as bad as the prior week. Although as much as a foot of snow was predicted, it only amounted to about 4 inches, plus a couple tenths of an inch of rain. Unfortunately, all the warm weather that graced us on Friday and Saturday made a bit of a mess in some spots. Though roadways are now mostly clear, it is the farmyards and gravel roads that have become hazardous. That which had been snow packed spots have turned to skating rinks. And the snow that fell atop that ice didn't help either.

As I mentioned, this past week wasn't so bad, weather-wise. Here are the official numbers: Monday, (15) - 1; Tuesday, 1 - 28; Wednesday, 2-30; Thursday, (10) - 25; Friday, 23-44; Saturday, 18-45; and Sunday, 9-27. The week ahead looks to be mercifully dryer, with a small chance of snow showers Tuesday, and bit better chance Thursday,

but neither are expected to add up to much. But before you get too excited, snow makes another appearance in the forecast on Saturday. But I suppose if you are a snowmobile or cross-country ski enthusiast, the snow will excite you. Temperatures are expected to remain seasonal with highs in the teens and 20s and lows in the single digits and teens. It's almost enough to make one pine for a chance to watch the Hawkeyes in person come New Year's Day in Tampa, Fla.

The Wednesday snows were not enough to keep the Sunday School Christmas Program at St. John in Luana from going on as scheduled. The angels were angelic, the shepherds awed, and the prophets bearded. Even the band that had all of 15 minutes of practice, managed to perform admirably. Later that evening, only the candles and the lights on the Christmas tree illumined the sanctuary at the end of the communion service which happened right around midnight. The next morning was bright, but quite chilly, so all but a handful of parishioners decided not to come for the Christmas morning worship. Though few in number, they were full in voice to sing those beloved Christmas carols.

When the temperatures and windchills finally rose out of the brutal range, our 7-year-old, Joshua enjoyed spending time outside, his favorite spot being the large pile of snow next to our house. This pile adds up as the result of the efforts to clear snow from the parking area and sidewalk in front of the house and church.

Well, I'll close now, but we'll talk again next year.

To close, consider the following phrase. Unlike all the others I've used, this one I've come up with myself: "It is a mark of maturity when one chooses to do a thing not so much to please oneself - and perhaps especially a thing that would otherwise bring one no joy - but in order to please those whom one loves. The surprising reward is the joy that such doing can achieve for one's self."

Supervisors discuss zoning, hear updates from Auditor and Emergency Management

BY BOB BEACH
The Standard

During its regular session Monday, December 29, the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors met with County Attorney Mary Jane White to discuss zoning administration issues to be covered in the training session scheduled for late February. In regard to concerns the Board expressed in a work session December 5 regarding the ease of transfer of agricultural land, White said that the zoning ordinance that was passed earlier this year includes a very broad agricultural exemption and that land where the existing use and the proposed use are agricultural could be easily transferred without "being caught in the net of zoning administration."

White also informed the Board that the language used in the section of the zoning ordinance regarding nonconforming lots is very commonly used in zoning ordinances. She explained that the "no sale provision" gives zoning administration a "great arm" with regard to substandard lots (less than three acres) and that the use of such provisions is accepted as a regulatory mechanism to implement zoning rules. She said that any subdivision that has not been used or developed is vulnerable to regulation and can not be sold until brought into compliance with the ordinance, ensuring that "bare land will remain bare until there is a good plan."

White suggested taking a proactive approach by con-

tacting developers, realtors and real estate attorneys to inform them of the need to bring lots into compliance before their sale. She also suggested that area developers and realtors be invited to attend the zoning administration training session in February.

During public comment time, Supervisor Cloy Kuhse asked County Auditor-Elect Pam Benjergdes what her plans are with regard to hiring a replacement for herself in the Auditor's office. Benjergdes said that she plans to "get settled in first" before deciding whether to hire a full or part-time replacement for her former position in the office. She also said that the Delaware County Auditor had been assigned to her as a mentor to help get her acclimated to her new position and that out-going Auditor Mary O'Neill will be a phone call away if she has questions.

Emergency Management Director Chris Dahlstrom updated the Board on his efforts to address problems caused by issues at the Agriprocessors facility in Postville. He said that since the situation there is unprecedented, he has very little guidance with regard to how to deal with it. He told the Board that he has been attempting to coordinate the efforts of various entities that have been working to provide needed assistance to displaced workers and that he has been meeting with landlords in the area to avoid evictions. He also said that the City of Postville has agreed not to shut off utilities if it is notified that aid has

been applied for.

Chairman Lennie Burke said that while the County is not providing any funding to address the crisis in Postville, Dahlstrom is providing needed leadership.

In other business, the Board appointed Howard Van Ruler, Karen Carlton and Mark Zieman to the Magistrate Appointing Commission. The Board also accepted and placed on file the Auditor's quarterly report.

Allamakee Community Players holding auditions

The Allamakee Community Players will be holding auditions for their winter comedy, "Big Bucks," on Monday, Jan. 5, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waukon. Interested adult actors can audition anytime during this time slot, appointments are not necessary.

The rehearsal schedule will be available at auditions. The performance dates are March 13, 14 and 15. If you are unable to attend the auditions but are interested in participating, or for more information, please call the director: Kris Larson at 563-864-7766.

Big "Buck" Fever is trying to protect the old homestead from becoming a freeway and the IRS wants to know why he hasn't filed a tax return for four years. His loving family does what they can to help keep their home intact. Gramma Fever carries a rifle and leads the enthusiastic group in singing folk songs. Mama Fever is busy making secret plans. His children, Nancy and Myron are looking for love, and find it in a most unlikely way.

The Fever Family will have you laughing and wondering all the way to the very end, where they learn what is really important in life.

Flu shots still available at VMH clinic; not open December 31

Due to the New Year's Eve holiday, there will be no regular immunization clinic held on Wednesday, Dec. 31, at Veterans Memorial Hospital Community and Home Care.

Flu Shots and other immunizations are available by appointment from a Community and Home Care Nurse, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anyone interested is asked to call the VMH Community and Home Care Office at 563-568-5660 to schedule a time. There is still plenty of time to receive the flu vaccine.

VMH Community and Home Care is located on the upper level of the hospital.

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SAT, JAN 3 AT 3PM & 7PM
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THU, JAN 8 AT 7PM

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snow depth and ice thickness on the pond.

Cross-country skiing is also available at the Osborne Pond area. Park staff will maintain groomed cross-country ski trails when the weather and snow depth permits. The trailheads begin at the pond and nature center parking lots. Look for the signs. A map of the trails can be picked up at the Osborne Nature Center.

The pond area also provides an enclosed shelter with a fireplace. There are also electrical outlets for crock pots and to heat water for hot chocolate.

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Across the Director's Desk: Recycle your Christmas Tree

FROM TERESA WIEMERSLAGE
Allamakee County ISU Extension Director

Iowans will buy several hundred thousand Christmas trees this holiday season. After the holidays, there are several ways to dispose of or recycle your tree. (Before recycling your Christmas tree, remove all tinsel and ornaments.) Some suggestions are:

- Place the tree in the yard or garden for use by birds and other wildlife. The branches provide shelter from strong winds and cold. Food can be supplied by hanging fruit slices, seed cakes, suet bags, or strings of cranberries or raisins on the tree's branches. You can also smear peanut butter and seeds in pine cones and hang them in the tree.
- Prune off the branches and place the boughs over perennials as a winter mulch.
- Chip the tree and use as a mulch around trees, shrubs, or in perennial flower beds.

If you can't use the tree yourself, contact local gov-

ernment offices, such as the Public Works Department, or your sanitation service. Most communities have some type of Christmas tree disposal program. Some have central collection points, others collect the trees at curbside.

Conservation groups may be another option. Some hunting and fishing groups collect trees and use them to provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

Don't burn your Christmas tree in a fireplace or wood stove. Dry, evergreen branches literally explode when burned and could cause a house fire. Also, burning the tree may contribute to the buildup of creosote and lead to a flue fire.

For many, selecting and decorating the Christmas tree is one of the highlights of the holiday season, and then after the holidays to recycle the tree and prolong its usefulness.

After Holiday Poinsettia Care

If given good care, poinsettias should remain attrac-

tive for several weeks, well after the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays.

Both over- and under-watering cause problems for poinsettias. Overwatering will cause the lower leaves to turn yellow and drop. Dry plants wilt and also drop leaves prematurely.

Water needs can be determined by the finger test. Check the potting soil daily with your finger. When the soil becomes dry to the touch, water the plant until the water begins to flow out the bottom of the pot. If the pot is wrapped in decorative foil, punch a hole in the foil at the bottom of the pot for water drainage and place a saucer underneath the pot. Discard the excess water which drains into the saucer.

Today, many florists use molded plastic pot covers rather than foil. When watering these plants, carefully remove the poinsettia from the pot covering, water the plant in the sink, then drop it back into the molded pot cover.

Fennelly's Irish Pub

New Year's Eve Celebration!

Karaoke & DJ after 10 pm

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